

## **St. George Area Sports Commission Meeting**

**Date:** March 16, 2016 9:30 a.m.

### **Board Present:**

Cimarron Chacon  
Barry Blake  
Jeriah Threlfall  
Jason Boothe  
Di Shanklin  
Tom Dansie

Kyle Case  
Roxie Sherwin  
Dave Kiel  
Kevin Lewis  
Steve Bingham  
Shayne Wittwer

Nick Ence  
Bryce King

**Location:** Washington County Administration Building- Upstairs Conference Room

**A) Welcome:** Chairman Jason Boothe called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and introductions were made of all the Commission members present.

**B) Minutes:** Mr. Boothe called for a motion to approve the minutes from February 17, 2016.

**Motion by Kyle Case to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016 as presented.**

**Motion seconded by Jeriah Threlfall and carried by a unanimous vote.**

### **C) Commission Business:**

#### **1) Meeting Time and Location**

Kevin Lewis mentioned that there had been scheduling conflicts with another meeting which takes place on the regularly scheduled day that the Sports Commission meets. In order to ease the flow of both meetings, it was agreed upon by the Commission to change the time from 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., as well as moving the location to the upstairs conference room of the County Administration Building.

#### **2) Adoption of Bylaws**

Members of the Commission reviewed the bylaws and agreed that everything was in order with the exception of the meeting time change.

**Motion by Jeriah Threlfall to adopt the Bylaws with the exception of the meeting time change. Motion seconded by Cimarron Chacon and carried by a unanimous vote.**

#### **3) Report on TrueGrit Mountain Bike Race**

Cimarron Chacon reported on the success of the TrueGrit Mountain Bike Race. She mentioned that Santa Clara City was a phenomenal host and that participation was up from last year by approximately 100 competitors, with the final registered participant count at 490. Many of the competitors were here from various countries including Costa Rica and Columbia. She expressed gratitude to Dave Kiel and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for all the work they did. It was mentioned that competitors and spectators stayed in the area for approximately a week rather than just for the race itself. Dave Kiel stated that there were numerous people who came to support the racers at the various checkpoints throughout the race.

#### **4) Discussion of Sports and Venue Opportunities:**

##### **a) Santa Clara Mountain Biking Venue**

Mr. Kiel stated the BLM is working with Santa Clara City on a park design, which is anticipated to be a 20 acre park by the Cove Wash Trailhead. He went on to say that the park will be ideal for staging of smaller events. Ms. Chacon mentioned the name of the park will potentially be the Santa Clara Adventure Park. Kevin Lewis stated that the High School Mountain Bike Race will continue to be held at the Santa Clara Biking Venue, which may be a bit challenging as there are 1000 expected participants.

##### **b) Hurricane Mountain Bike Festival**

Bryce King stated that there were approximately 200 participants registered for the Festival. Mr. Lewis mentioned that DJ Morissette was able to secure the remaining funding needed to be able to provide the pump track for the event.

##### **c) Hurricane Sports Complex Feasibility Study**

Mr. Lewis explained that phase one of the Sports Complex study was now complete which included the comparable market analysis of different sports and recreation venues and also determined program needs. Data from various groups and online surveys is pooled together to form a recommendation of what is needed, projected cost estimates and projected usage. The details of that study will be available in April. He mentioned that from this portion of the study they learned that there is a real need for a sports complex.

#### **5) Presentations:**

##### **a) Washington City New Soccer Park and Future Plans**

Barry Blake presented a topographical map of the Sullivan Family Virgin River Soccer Complex, which showed the placement of the soccer fields, pickle ball courts, fishing pond, pavilions, concessions, benches, and parking stalls in the Park. He then presented the 1998 master plan compared to the present plan.

He explained that the parcel of property was purchased in 2001 and part of the agreement was that there had to be a park constructed on the land within 10 years. Phase 1 of the Complex was complete in October of 2011. The Complex is 37.5 acres in size, has four (4) championship sized soccer fields, which can accommodate up to three (3) games at a time. It also has covered seating for up to 100 people, score boards, six (6) pickle ball courts, two (2) pavilions, a splash pad, children's waterfall, picnic pads, a full concession and restroom facility, park benches, urban fishery (stocked every three (3) weeks), 325 parking stalls, and connects to the Virgin River Walking Trail. The cost of the Complex was \$5,794,354.00 and was completed in March of 2015.

Washington City currently rents out pavilions for gatherings, and charges \$500-\$1000 per day per soccer field depending on the amount of teams using the field. Soccer, lacrosse, rugby and ultimate frisbee are some of the activities that take place on the fields.

**b) Grant/ Sponsorship Applications**

**i. ProWatercross Hosting Fee**

Kevin Lewis presented a request for hosting fees for the ProWatercross event. He explained that the ProWatercross group had come back to him with a new proposal to host the event again in 2016. They said there was solid interest from their participants to return and that several were planning vacations around the event. He went on to say that at the ProWatercross event held last June, there were approximately 93 teams that competed. A national television broadcast showcasing the event is included and provides viewing for 122 million households. Mr. Lewis explained that Curtis Strong is hosting a wakeboard festival at Sand Hollow on the same weekend. Curtis has agreed to allow ProWatercross to use the beach space and parking they needed so the events could take place on the same days. The two events would operate independently, but would cross promote each other's activities. The commission discussed the benefits of hosting a summertime event with media attention. Bryce King inquired as to how Hurricane City could be better spotlighted, as they are the host city. He would like that information to be included on the ProWatercross website. The ProWatercross event is seeking \$20,000 for the hosting fee. It was agreed upon by the Commission to award the grant for this year and take note of the success of the event to determine if it will be something they support in the future.

**Motion by Kyle Case to make a recommendation to the County Commission to fund \$20,000 from the Sports & Outdoor Recreation Budget for hosting the ProWatercross event. The recommendation will include a request to the event organizer that Hurricane City be added to the website. Motion seconded by Cimarron Chacon and carried by a unanimous vote.**

**Other Business**

Tom Dansie mentioned that there is now a shuttle service provided by St. George Shuttle that makes two (2) round trips to Springdale. The cost is \$20.00 each way and the shuttles can take up to 15 people at a time.

Dave Kiel inquired about a corresponding calendar for all events taking place in Southern Utah. He would like to see the calendar include BLM happenings, city events, university events, and Dixie Center Convention events. It was determined this would be an item for an upcoming Sports Commission agenda.

Kyle Case gave an update on the Huntsman World Senior Games. He mentioned registration was opened on March 1<sup>st</sup> at midnight. He went on to say that pickle ball has been the most popular event, with the mixed doubles category closing out within 30 minutes of opening. The entire pickle ball section was closed by 9am on March 1st. It was discussed that more volunteers are needed to help with refereeing and with various other areas to help keep the games running smoothly. He anticipates that participation will be strong with this year being the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The goal is to have 10,950 athletes as well as to host 30 countries.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 a.m. Next meeting: April 20, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m.**